

Mr. Lloyd George

II.

HIS INSURANCE ACT—HIS GIFTS AS PARTY LEADER—HIS WELSH RHETORIC—HIS INVECTIVE—HIS GOSPEL OF CLASS AGAINST CLASS—CONFISCATION—AMERICAN ILLUSION—HIS WANING POWER—THE MARCONI SCANDALS.

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Camard S. S. Mauretanian, November 23.

The Insurance Act is the best standard by which to try Mr. Lloyd George's claims that party success is a sufficient defence for a measure of profligate finance. It is a vast and complicated measure. It was driven through the House of Commons by an untiring use of the gag, the guillotine, and other devices for coercing a powerful minority. Masses of detail vital to the bill were never debated at all. Amendments were slaughtered wholesale. For a considerable period of time the House ceased to be a deliberative assembly and became a machine for grinding out the material of a statute at the will of the Ministry. For this the Prime Minister was primarily responsible; but the Prime Minister in respect of the Insurance Act was the agent of Mr. Lloyd George, as in respect of Home Rule he was, and as the agent of Mr. Redmond.

Both Mr. Asquith and his Chancellor of the Exchequer believed it to be a vote-catching bill. "Ninipence for fourpence," was the cry. "You pay fourpence. You get ninipence," that was the appeal. A seductive appeal. The party that conferred on millions of voters this pecuniary boon was to be inviolable. The Act was passed, and went into effect. An army of new officials was created to administer it. For details I have no space. It is enough to say that the working of it evoked storms of protest. It struck at the Friendly Societies, at Trade Unions, at other voluntary bodies beneficially and wisely conducted by trained men who knew their business. It annoyed master, mistress and servant. Obloquy, not popularity, attended its progress. Then came by-election after by-election, eight or ten or more—I have not the figures by me—these elections, some of them extremely important, were lost by the Government, and won by the Opposition, wholly or mainly because of the Insurance Act. A party act meant to strengthen the party, and this was the result! So much for Mr. Lloyd George as a party leader.

Yet as a party leader he has extraordinary gifts. He is forever talking of principles. In his acts, his policy, his leadership, you seek for them in vain. His nearest approach to a principle is a sentiment. Of the radicals in general who talk of ideas, the same thing is true. Their ideas are sentiments, maxims, aspirations; often humane and well meaning; but incapable of scientific definition or practical application. Mr. Lloyd George is their natural chief. They accept his emotional outbursts as declarations of principle. Some of them see clearer. The ablest of radical journalists said of him: "Principles? He does not know the meaning of the word."

In resources of a different kind he is not lacking. He is a born rhetorician. He is of that Celtic fringe which, though only a fringe, encroaches steadily upon the English body politic; English to the core and English on the surface, yet submissive for at least two centuries to the races which hang upon its outskirts. I suppose one cannot judge fully of Mr. George's powers on the platform without understanding Welsh; a privilege which is not mine; but he is master of a certain kind of English, and we need not seek to get inside his Welsh heart. Limehouse and Newcastle, and sometimes the House of Commons itself, have offered him opportunities of which he has availed himself with a freedom such as no other politician of his time has attempted. You must go back to Cobbett and to Henry for examples of invective so racy and so venomous.

He complains that no other public man is so bitterly attacked. He forgets that no other public man has attacked his opponents so bitterly, or with such disregard. I do not say of the courtesies only but even of the conventionalities of debate. If an opponent is of what are called the upper classes he is likely to be reviled upon that ground. He is accused by his opponents of having entered upon a campaign for party purposes, to set class against class. It is of the class which he professes to regard as oppressed, and which he knows to be in a majority, that he makes himself the advocate.

Hereditary right is to him an offence, and an eldest son is only "the first of the litter." To be a Duke is to him anathema. He uses the word as a term of contempt and hatred. "You do not see many Dukes working on the coal fields of the Welsh or English pits."

Land Reform is a subject on which he comes as near to being sincere as on any other; yet even this is made to serve party aims. Land Reform is launched at the moment when it becomes desirable to divide and distract public attention from Home Rule and from the approach of Civil War in Ulster. So is Nationalization of the Railways; for an inquiry into which Mr. George, whether the author of the proposal or not, is jointly responsible as a Minister. Confiscation is a harsh word, but listen to Mr. George at Newcastle, two years ago, after he had begun a secret Land Valuation, thundering against landlord oppression. "Turn them out," cried a voice from the audience. "Take their land from them."

"Well, we have made a beginning," was Mr. Lloyd George's answer.

If you listen to his plausible statement of the case for landlord robbery as a means of land reform you may admire the art of the speaker as well as his cool effrontery. If you sit through a debate in the House of Commons you will admire his mastery of appeal, his biting retorts upon interrupting adversaries, his passages of hot eloquence, his persuasive energy, his readiness to meet all comers; and, when he is at his

best, his House of Commons manner. His political mind is a piece of tempered steel. If you meet him in private you will find him captivating, conciliatory; not unacquainted with social usages when he troubles himself to remember them. He profits by the rule of English society which leaves politics outside and regards a dining room as neutral ground where Unionist and Radical may meet on equal terms.

I am writing more fully of Mr. Lloyd George than I meant, and for one reason. I write as an American to Americans. I have been told many times that his influence in America and on American thought is considerable. His reputation in America is a mistaken reputation. We are misled by names. We think him a Liberal. A Liberal he is not, nor ever was. He is Revolutionary. A great part, the most important part, of the legislation proposed, and much of it carried, by the present Radical Ministry could not even have been proposed in the Congress at Washington. The party leaders who proposed it would have lost forever the confidence of the people.

In the waning of Mr. Lloyd George's power in England we may find a lesson for ourselves. I have explained some of the causes of his decay. There was a time when men looked to him as the inevitable successor to Mr. Asquith as Prime Minister. But if Mr. Asquith were to vanish from the scene tomorrow it is not Mr. George who would step into that vacant place. It is probably Sir Edward Grey. Against Mr. Lloyd George the moral sense and sensibilities of the English people have turned.

It is difficult to say how far the Marconi business was a factor in disturbing and diminishing Mr. George's power. It left a stain on him, as it did on Sir Rufus Isaacs, yet it was found possible to appoint Sir Rufus Isaacs to be Lord Chief Justice; and against his appointment, when once made, there was no very strong protest. Sir Rufus had apologized for his indiscretion in Marconi speculations; forgot them if you can forget them, was the general feeling.

Mr. Lloyd George was in a worse position than Sir Rufus Isaacs, because when he entered upon the Stock Exchange speculation he was Minister of Finance and guardian of the public funds, and the source of this speculation was a tip from a man who had contractual relations with the government. No such scandal had ever before been known. It remained a scandal after all notion of corrupt dealing had been dispelled.

All this has passed into history. The history of this man can never be told without retelling the Marconi story. I touch on it briefly and reluctantly and gently. I believe such an incident would have been impossible in the United States. I cannot doubt that an American Minister who had acted as this English Minister acted would have had to retire from office. And when the English Minister's American admirers present him to the American people as an oracle and prophet of Liberalism, the truth about him has to be told.

G. W. S.

NEW COURT TENNIS PRIZE Challenge Cup to Take Place of Gold Racquet.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Tuxedo Park, N. Y., Dec. 20.—The challenge cup presented by the Tuxedo Tennis and Racquet Club to replace the gold racquet for court tennis honors will be one of the attractive trophies in court tennis the coming year. Jay Gould, amateur champion of the world, won the title to the gold racquet four years ago, and since then there has been no trophy to replace it.

The Tuxedo challenge cup is open to all amateurs who have never won the amateur tennis championship, and is to be won three times. There will be a cup presented to the winner each year. In addition to a leg on the challenge cup. Previous winners must play through the tournament. If a winner of the challenge cup should also win the amateur championship he shall remain eligible to play for the cup.

The first match of this tournament will begin Saturday, December 27, and the finals will be played New Year's Day. Entries closed to-day with Robert Moore, Superintendent of the Tuxedo Tennis and Racquet Club, all matches to be three out of six game sets. The entries to date include Robert D. Wrenn, P. Lorillard, Jr., C. Suydam Cutting, R. Fulton Cutting, Jr., Oliver Perrin, J. Gordon Douglas, J. I. Scott and Morris Roche, of New York.

To-morrow P. Lorillard, Jr., will meet William Post in the finals for the Tuxedo Club championship in court tennis. In addition, there will be matches in racquets and the semi-finals in the club handicap matches.

VANDERBILTS BUY BRONZES Purchase Eight Pieces of the Meunier Collection.

Buffalo, Dec. 20.—Mr. and Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt, of Biltmore, N. C., have bought eight bronzes of the Constantin Meunier collection now being shown at the Albright Art Gallery here, and considered the greatest one-man exhibit that has ever come to America from Europe. The bronzes bought by Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt will remain with the exhibition for some time. The pieces are "Antwerp," "Old Miner," "Miner," "Woodcutter," "Old Woodcutter," "The Hammer," "The Glassblower" and "Abbot-teur."

Brazilian Legation Violated.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

Lisbon, Dec. 20.—An incident which will probably result in international complications occurred to-day. The police forced the entrance of the Brazilian Legation in order to capture a man charged with conspiracy. The Brazilian Legation in order to capture a man charged with conspiracy. The Brazilian Legation in order to capture a man charged with conspiracy. The Brazilian Legation in order to capture a man charged with conspiracy.

MRS. JOSEPH HAMBLIN SEARS AND HER DAUGHTER, MISS PENELOPE SEARS.



G. VON L. MEYER, JR., WEDS

Miss Frances S. Saltonstall, Bride of Ex-Secretary's Son.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Boston, Dec. 20.—The quiet little Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan was the scene at noon to-day of one of the most picturesque and interesting weddings Boston has known in many a day, when George Von L. Meyer, Jr., and Miss Frances Sherwood Saltonstall were married in a bower of greenery and lilies.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip L. Saltonstall, of Milton. Meyer is the only son of the former Secretary of the Navy, George Von L. Meyer, and was graduated from Harvard last June.

Bishop Lawrence, assisted by the Rev. Endicott Peabody, of the Groton School, and the pastor of the church, performed the ceremony.

The bride wore a gown of white satin, trimmed with Valenciennes lace. Her tulle veil was caught up with orange blossoms, and she carried a large bouquet of lilacs-of-the-valley. The bridesmaids, Miss Rose Lee Saltonstall, sister of the bride, and Miss Julia A. Meyer, sister of the bridegroom, wore white silk trimmed with gold lace and fur, and dark brown picture hats. J. Griswold Webb was the best man. A reception followed at the Saltonstall home.

The young couple will live in one of the cottages on the Meyer estate at Hamilton.

MISS KERN CHRISTMAS BRIDE.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Richmond, Va., Dec. 20.—Announcement is made by Senator and Mrs. John W. Kern, of Indianapolis, of the engagement of their daughter Julia to Dr. George B. Lawson, of Roanoke. The marriage will take place at Kern's parents' near Hollins, Va., on Christmas Day. Dr. Lawson is a member of the State Board of Health, and formerly resided at Wytheville, Va. Only members of the families will attend the ceremony.

KIMBALL-M'GEORGE.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. McGeorge, of No. 245 Westminster Road, Flatbush, Brooklyn, announce the marriage of their daughter, Miss Olive Gray McGeorge, to Charles W. Kimball, of Manhattan. The ceremony took place on December 13 in the rectory of the University Place Presbyterian Church, Manhattan.

HALE-KEEP.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 20.—Robert Lee Hale, of New York, and Miss Dorothy Keep, of New York and Farmington, were married at noon to-day by the Rev. Quincy Blakey, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Farmington.

The ceremony was performed at New Place, the home of Mrs. Robert P. Keep, the bride's mother. It was in Farmington that Sarah Porter, grand aunt of the bride, established her famous young women's school, and her centenary was observed last October. Mr. Hale is the son of the late Matthew Hale, of Albany.

ENGAGEMENTS.

Dr. and Mrs. Alton G. Warner, of No. 19 Schermerhorn street, Brooklyn, announce the engagement of their daughter, Irene Warner, to Benjamin Kimball Ayers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Augustin R. Ayers, of Concord, N. H. Mr. Ayers is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Yale Forest School.

The engagement of Miss Marjorie Elliott Simmons, second daughter of Mrs. E. E. Simmons, of Wilmington, Del., to John Innes Kane, of Ossining, has been announced. Mr. Kane is a mining engineer, and recently returned from Mexico on his vacation.

YALE MAN RHODES SCHOLAR.

S. H. Paradise, a Senior, Selected by Award Committee.

New Haven, Dec. 20.—Scott, Hurt Paradise, a senior, was selected by the committee of award as the Rhodes scholar to Oxford University from Yale University to-day.

Mr. Paradise lives in Milford, Conn. He has held two scholarships in the academic department. He is a football player, editor of "The Yale Literary Magazine" and a member of the Elizabethan Club, Psi Upsilon and Wolf's Head.

Winston Churchill in Paris.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

Paris, Dec. 20.—Winston Churchill, First Lord of the British Admiralty, arrived in Paris to-day. He will converse with Premier Doumergue and other diplomatic and political personages before returning to England. In the afternoon he was present at the aeroplane gala meeting at Buc.

SING CAROLS AT SYMPHONY

St. Bartholomew's Choir Feature of Damosch Concert.

The Young People's Symphony Concert yesterday afternoon in Carnegie Hall was full of the spirit of the Christmas tide. As usual, the orchestral portion of the programme was furnished by the New York Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Walter Damrosch.

The orchestra played, as illustrating the French horn, the overture to "Der Freischütz" and the andante movement from Tchaikowsky's Fifth Symphony, and in illustration of the "cello excerpts from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Massenet's "Les Erynnies."

But the novel portion of the afternoon was the singing of a large number of English, French and German carols by the choir of St. Bartholomew's Church, Arthur Hyde, director. The carols were all of them exquisitely beautiful, and sung with a taste which spoke volumes for the quality of Mr. Hyde's training.

Especially delightful were "Joseph, Teller of Joseph Mine" of Calistvo, the old Breton "Hall, Christmas Bells," and the "Good Rest You, Merry Gentlemen." Lucky indeed was the large audience that gathered to hear these old works, and it was an audience that abundantly showed its pleasure. The stage was tastefully decorated with evergreens.

MME. MONTESSORI DIETING

Italian Teacher Resting in Battle Creek Sanatorium.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 20.—Mme. Marie Montessori, the Italian teacher, is at a sanatorium here for a brief rest, and a special diet. Her lecture trip has been a severe task on her strength, and while it is said she is not ill, she has decided upon a short rest from lecturing.

Upon leaving Battle Creek, Mme. Montessori will go to New York and then sail for Italy.

Georgetown Players at Plaza.

The Clover Club, of Georgetown University, brought their musical comedy, "The Maid of Marshfield," to the Plaza last night. The production, which was warmly received in Washington, was well presented here. It was written and composed by two of the members of the club, some clever dancing is introduced, and the singing is excellent.

The young men who take the female roles give a performance equal to some of the best work done by the members of the various university clubs who play here annually, and in their love-making scenes are at their best.

Among the cast, which numbered 100 players, are Gardner L. Duffy, Michael L. Danahue, S. Guy McGarage, Gerald C. Curry and Loughran Daly, who won a personal success with his German character portrayal. The chorus was well drilled, and there were a number of specialties introduced in the regular programme. After the performance there was dancing.

Belasco Plays End Long Runs.

David Warfield's engagement in "The Auctioneer" ended last night at the Belasco Theatre, where star and production have enjoyed success for the last three months. The ending of the engagement was necessary in order to make room for the coming of Frances Starr in "The Secret." Tuesday night, from the Belasco Theatre star and production will go direct to Buffalo, thence on a tour of the leading American cities.

"The Temperamental Journey," with Leo Dittichstein, ended its four months' engagement at the Republic Theatre last night. The coming week Mr. Belasco will present "The Temperamental Journey" with Mr. Dittichstein and the original cast at the Broadway Theatre, Brooklyn.

FATHER OF JEWISH STAGE DEAD.

Philip Tomashefsky, known as the father of the Jewish stage in America, died yesterday at his country home, Centerville, N. Y. He was sixty-nine years old and was born in Kiev, Russia, which he left thirty-two years ago for this country.

He made his first venture in the Yiddish theatre on the lower East Side. Its success induced further endeavors. He left thirteen sons, all actors. One of them, Morris, is manager of the National Theatre. The funeral service will be held to-day at the home of the latter, No. 549 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn.

McReynolds Off for Holiday.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Attorney General McReynolds left Washington to-night for Elkhart, Ky., to spend Christmas at the home of his mother. He will be away a week or ten days.

DEBUTANTE DANCE FOR MISS SEARS

Party at Sherry's Follows Afternoon Reception at Colony Club.

TEA FOR MISS BLANCHE TYNG

Miss Katherine Fitch Another Bud Introduced at Dinner and Theatre Party.

Mrs. Joseph Hamblin Sears, of Oyster Bay, gave a reception yesterday afternoon at the Colony Club for the debut of her daughter, Miss Penelope Sears. In the receiving party were Miss Rosette Carson, Miss Charlotte Strong, Miss Isabel Cumming, Miss Noel Haskins, Miss Dorothy Hollister, Miss Margaret Henderson, Miss Elizabeth Kirlin and Miss Florence Johnston. At the tea table were Mrs. Crawford Burton, Mrs. Louis Moore, Miss Betty Carson, Miss Eleanor Taylor, Miss Dorothy Doubleday and Miss Margaret Bowers. The debutante wore a frock of white satin, trimmed with white tulle and ronebuds.

In the evening Frederic Potts Moore gave a dance at Sherry's for Miss Sears, her receiving party and a few additional guests, who included Miss Dorothy R. Chisholm, Miss Joy Williams, Miss Caroline Wyeth, Miss Mary Cummock, Miss Dorothy Anderson, Miss Dorothy Howard, Miss Star Paris, Miss Mai Watson, Forrest Butterworth, James Peck, Jr., S. Bryce Wing, L. Stuart Wing, Jr., Harold Herrick, Burgess W. and Frederick H. Woolley, Cleveland Elliot and Boughton Cobb, W. Brenton Welling, Jr., Charles H. and Lindsay H. Welling, John Stearns, Jr., Nelson Doubleday, Stewart W. Bowers, Ralph Kirlin and Thomas Johnson.

Mrs. Allen Fitch gave a reception yesterday afternoon at her home, No. 28 West 56th street, to introduce to society her daughter, Miss Katherine Fitch. Mrs. Fitch and her daughter were assisted in receiving by Miss Marion Fitch, Miss Sally Parker, Miss Dorothy Brown, Miss Helen Bangs, Miss Elizabeth Fry, Miss Ernestine Glover, Miss Gertrude Pardee, Miss Katherine Smith, Miss Florence Orr, Miss Eugenie Bissell, Miss Virginia Scully and Miss Edith Bouvier. After the reception there was a dinner for the receiving party, and later they went to the Globe Theatre, and then to Sherry's for supper and dancing. At the dinner, theatrical party and supper there was also John Minton, Howard Major, A. Wallace Chauncey, Harold Aiker, Connor Lawrence, John Gibb, James Shaw, Matthew Loeman, Edward B. Dickinson and Robert Meyers.

Mrs. Robert Franklin Adams gave a tea yesterday afternoon at her home, No. 3 East 56th street, to introduce her daughter, Miss Edith Adams. After the reception there was a dinner for the receiving party and an equal number of young men, and later Mrs. Adams took her guests to the theatre and afterwards to Sherry's for supper and dancing. Receiving with the debutante were Miss Carla von Bergen, Miss Harriet McAlpin, Miss Dorothy Bigelow, Miss Vera van Buren, Miss Elsa von Bergen, Miss Marietta Chapin, Miss Helen Elberck, Miss Virginia Goldes, Miss Charlotte Holms, Miss Lena Grant, Miss Mildred Gaston, Miss Constance Peabody, Miss Margaret Smith, Miss Roda Tanner, Miss Helen Smith and Miss Marion Vanderhoeft. Mrs. C. H. Curtis, of No. 15 East 56th street, will give a dance at Sherry's for Miss Adams on January 5, and later in January Mrs. Adams will give a dinner dance for her daughter.

Another tea was given by Mrs. Lucien Hamilton Tyng at her new home, No. 3 East 85th street, for Miss Blanche Tyng and her daughter, Miss Blanche Tyng. The debutante daughter of James A. Tyng and great-granddaughter of the late Stephen Tyng. In the receiving party were Miss Farr, Miss Margaret Ferris and Miss Ann Fay Wilmerding. Miss Tyng wore a gown of white satin and chiffon. Following the reception there was a dinner and dancing.

Miss Constance De Forest Orr was introduced to society yesterday afternoon at a reception given for her by Mrs. Fritz von Bernuth, Jr., at her home, No. 48 West End avenue. The debutante, who wore a gown of apricot-colored tulle, was assisted in receiving by Miss Louise Backermann, Miss Ruth Fliske, Miss Maida Birmingham and Miss Beth Fliske. Miss Helen McMurphy and Miss Marie Louise Victor were at the tea table.

Mrs. Frederic Sheppard Dennis gave a luncheon yesterday at the Colony Club for her niece, Miss Mildred Dennis, the debutante daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Dennis. After luncheon Mrs. Dennis took the party to see "Grumpy" at Wallack's Theatre. Among her guests were Miss Dorothy Adrian, Miss Charlotte Jenks, Miss Elinor Davies, Miss Charlotte Strong, Miss Margaret Henderson, Miss Louise Frank, Miss Colline Ingersoll and Miss Barbara Shedd.

Mrs. George L. Rives gave a dinner last night at her home, No. 69 East 75th street, for her daughter, Miss Mildred Rives. The dinner was served for forty, and afterward there was general dancing.

Mrs. Amos R. Enio Pinchoff gave a reception yesterday afternoon at her home, No. 1021 Park avenue.

SAYS CHILD RULES HOME

Those on the dais with ex-President Taft included Marcus M. Marks, H. P. Davidson, William S. Hawk, Congressman Calder, Major General Nelson A. Miles, General Henry L. Burnett, Major General Thomas H. Barry, Dudley Field Malone, Captain Albert Gleaves, U. S. N.; "The Church and the Home," to be read to-morrow in the churches in the Roman Catholic archdiocese. Cardinal O'Connell lays emphasis on the need for greater exertion of parental authority.

"The absence of education generally prevailing in our country has resulted in the undermining of that respect for authority which is a necessary condition for the observance of law," says the Cardinal. "Parental authority has been shattered to pieces. That is alarming, until it may be said that in a large percentage of homes it is not the parents but the children who rule."

Menelik's Death Confirmed.

Rome, Dec. 20.—That Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia died on December 12 is confirmed in the latest dispatches received here from Addis Ababa, the Abyssinian capital. Although official announcement of the Emperor's death is lacking, it is due probably to the necessity of precautions being taken to insure the succession to the throne.

Cardinal O'Connell Makes Plea for Parental Authority.

Boston, Dec. 20.—In a pastoral letter on "The Church and the Home," to be read to-morrow in the churches in the Roman Catholic archdiocese, Cardinal O'Connell lays emphasis on the need for greater exertion of parental authority.

"The absence of education generally prevailing in our country has resulted in the undermining of that respect for authority which is a necessary condition for the observance of law," says the Cardinal. "Parental authority has been shattered to pieces. That is alarming, until it may be said that in a large percentage of homes it is not the parents but the children who rule."

DINNER FOR ADMIRAL KNIGHT.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Newport, Dec. 20.—Rear Admiral Austin M. Knight was a guest of honor at a dinner given to-night by Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Harry K. Cagle at the Naval Training Station. The guests included Captain and Mrs. Roger Welles, Captain and Mrs. V. O. Chase and Mrs. Welch.

CANAL, SAYS TAFT, DUE TO ROOSEVELT

Ex-President, Speaking at Ohio Dinner, Gives Some Inside History.

WATERWAY UNLIKELY BUT FOR SEIZURE

Preferential Tolls, Rapid Fortification and Presidential Control Urged.

Ex-President Taft, speaking at the twenty-eighth dinner of the Ohio Society at the Waldorf-Astoria last night on the inside history of the Panama Canal, said Theodore Roosevelt made the canal possible by taking the zone. He excused himself from going into a discussion of the manner in which the United States acquired title to the strip of land.

"The Lord works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform," he said, "but I doubt very much whether the canal would have been built unless what happened did happen."

Actual credit for the big ditch, he said, also belonged first to Mark Hanna, for his business sagacity in urging the enterprise, and to Senator John C. Spooner, of Wisconsin, who drew the bill that authorized President Roosevelt to decide which route ought to be accepted.

Mr. Taft entered into a broad retrospect of connection with the canal from 1901 to 1913. He reviewed the controversy over the sea level vs. the lock canal, saying that both President Roosevelt and he were at first in favor of the sea level plan and were dissuaded only by the arguments of the majority of American engineers. If the sea level plan had been adopted, he said, it would have taken twenty years to complete the work and the patience of the American people would probably have been exhausted.

Escaped Alien Control.

Going back to the subject of President Roosevelt's taking the canal zone, Mr. Taft said the United States of Colombia would undoubtedly have seized the zone and attained dominion over it if the Hay-Herran treaty had gone into effect. The result, he said, would have been that the strip would have been policed and fortified by an alien people.

The real work of W. Nelson Cromwell, the New York lawyer who established the "modus vivendi" in taking the French Canal Company shares and in other ways making easy the beginning of the enterprise, Mr. Taft said, had never been properly recognized.

Going on with his story, he told of the breaking down of John H. Stevens, the engineer, and of the difficulties that followed until Colonel George W. Goethals was finally found to head the commission. Mr. Taft said President Roosevelt asked him if he, as Secretary of War, could find the man to "do the trick."

"I replied that I had found such a man, that his name was Goethals, and that he was a son of a Dutchman, which ought to give him a pretty good start," said Mr. Taft.

Without the knowledge of the treatment of tropical diseases, based on experience of the army surgeons in the Spanish War, the canal could not have been completed as successfully and quickly as it was, Mr. Taft said.

"I do not wish to make invidious comparisons," he said, "but our army surgeons have made more progress along that line in the last fifteen years than all the other nations have made in the last hundred years. I very much believe that had the French possessed the same knowledge there would have certainly been a French canal there instead of a monument to American enterprise and scientific knowledge."

The ex-president touched on the question of tolls, and declared again unequivocally in favor of preferential tolls. He bluntly remarked that he was in favor of submitting the question to an international tribunal for arbitration. He said he regretted having to differ with Senator Root and Joseph H. Choate as to the construction of the treaty terms, but as for himself, he said, he did not wish to appear in the light of breaking the United States' part of the contract.

Favors Rapid Fortification.

As to fortifying the zone, Mr. Taft said he, as a man of peace and a member of many peace societies, was heartily in favor of fortifying as rapidly as the United States could push the fortifications.

"While I am essentially a man of peace," he remarked, "I am no more in favor of not taking precautions to preserve peace than I am of leaving my front door open nights because I am not in favor of burglary."

Future government on the zone, he said, ought to be simple enough not to harass the already overburdened minds of the "overworked legislators at Washington." He declared in favor of an administrative control by the President.

Mr. Taft thought the effects of the canal would exceed the most careful computations. He said it would undoubtedly have a great effect upon the rates of transcontinental railroads and on the character of the freight carried. As a bond between the east and west ocean coasts of the country the opening of the canal would be tremendous, he said.

William H. Truesdale, president of the Ohio Society, presided at the dinner. John Barrett, president of the Pan-American Union, and J. Adam Bede were the other speakers.

Those on the dais with ex-President Taft included Marcus M. Marks, H. P. Davidson, William S. Hawk, Congressman Calder, Major General Nelson A. Miles, General Henry L. Burnett, Major General Thomas H. Barry, Dudley Field Malone, Captain Albert Gleaves, U. S. N.; "The Church and the Home," to be read to-morrow in the churches in the Roman Catholic archdiocese. Cardinal O'Connell lays emphasis on the need for greater exertion of parental authority.

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"POCO" BENNETT DEAD

Amassed Fortune as "Banker" to Harvard Students.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 20.—Barnard Bennett, known by all Harvard men as "Poco," died suddenly to-day. Though never a part of the university, "Poco" occupied a novel position in college life as banker to students who had exceeded their parental allowances and were in immediate need of funds. By many years of barter, lending and exchanging "Poco" amassed a fortune. Often he resorted to the courts to recover sums lent to students, and on many occasions he was defendant in lawsuits instituted by men who alleged they had been charged excessive interest.

Among the court